

# KUKUI

## NEWSLETTER

### Palmyra

*KUKUI & Company make their presence known at sea and find solace in a remote exotic land.*

**Page 2**

### Divers

*They've been diving! KUKUI's divers have had the opportunity to help the CG in many unique ways.*

**Page 3**

### Midway

*KUKUI makes way for the historical island of Midway to do what she does best: ATON!*

**Page 4**

### Samoa

*Part of a 47 day law enforcement patrol with KUKUI playing a key role in international relations.*

**Page 5**

## KUKUI's Been Busy!

*After a long summer Charlie period, KUKUI heads to Midway Atoll, the South Pacific, and back to Honolulu for Presidential Security detail.*

As the long summer Charlie period came to an end, so too did the season, but not without the culminating event: an ATON Patrol to Midway Atoll. In a trip landing KUKUI on two islands (Kauai and Midway) and covering over two-thousand nautical miles, WLB-203 maintained and inspected roughly a dozen buoys, both on surface and beneath it. In addition to ATON, KUKUI also aided the small population of Midway by transporting over 12,000 pounds of food and supplies.

KUKUI then rested up for the marathon of patrols - what's known amongst the crew as, "the South Trip". A 47 day deployment, not exactly a marathon when you look at 378's and other large cutters, but for a buoy tender it's significant. The patrol was exciting and eventful, beginning with transiting a few thousand miles to the far off and mystical land of Western Samoa, where KUKUI would be enforcing a new bilateral agreement. After Western Samoa, KUKUI visited American Samoa several times, and finished the trip with a stop in Vava'u, Tonga. On the transit home KUKUI was lucky enough to cross "the X" - where the equator and international dateline meet. Coincidentally, King Neptune graced us with his presence around the time when KUKUI hit "the X", demanding all Wogs answer for their crimes against the great Poseidon. Luckily, the crew survived the visit and was saltier for the wear.

There were only a few days of rest for the crew upon returning to Honolulu, the holiday season was among us and the President himself was visiting our lovely island! Fortunately, KUKUI got to stay at home for Christmas and New Years, but woke up bright and early on January 1<sup>st</sup> to serve as part of the Presidential Security Detail. Patrolling off the coast of Kailua in an average of 15ft seas, the crew stood a vigilant watch, ready to respond to any call.

*KUKUI's adventures continue!*

### WELCOME ABOARD

MK3 Mark Rivas  
SN Colleen Mitten  
SN Armond Thompson  
FN Mitchell Hopper  
FA Keliikalani Ramos

### BABY SHIPMATES

Marcelo Felipe Diaz-Soto  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Shelby Rene Korte  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Pierce Gordon Dawson  
December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Congratulations!**



# Palmyra

## KUKUI teams up with GALVESTON ISLAND

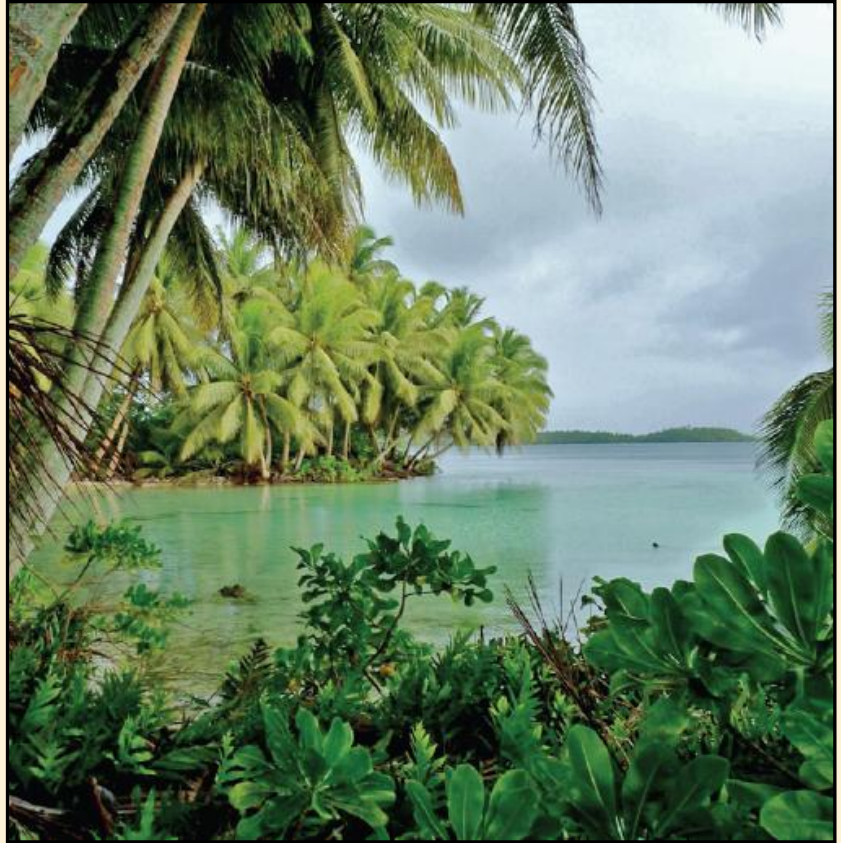
One of KUKUI's many missions is Law Enforcement, and she is very capable, however teaming with the 110-foot cutter GALVESTON ISLAND (GI) created a great combination of endurance and speed. The two vessels patrolled the Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for roughly two weeks to ensure legal fishing activities were being practiced, and it's this continued presence in the Pacific that reminds the world that the Coast Guard is more than just small boats and helicopters. Additionally, KUKUI's large buoy deck proved useful in transporting heavy equipment back to Honolulu, resulting in thousands of government dollars saved on rental fees and transportation costs.

## Port Call: Palmyra Atoll

**Most have never even heard of the place, but Palmyra is a land with a notable history:**

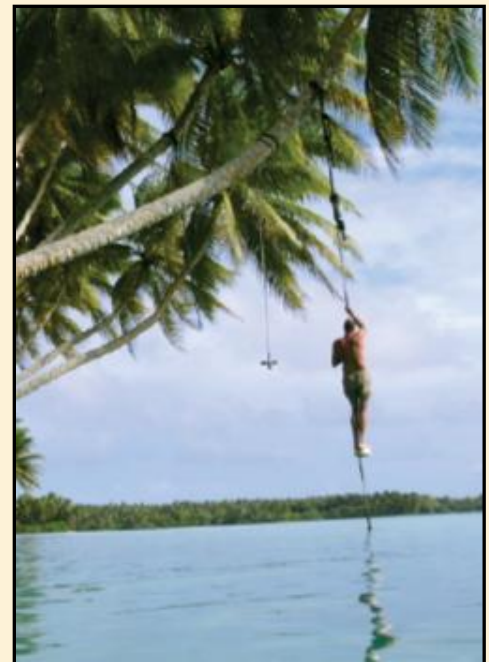
Discovered in 1798 by American Sea Captain Edmund Fanning

- Coincidentally named after a ship called *Palmyra* wrecked on its reefs in 1802 (the island happens to have tons of Palm trees)
- Has been "owned" by America, the Kingdom of Hawaii, the United Kingdom, and various individuals before the U.S. finally assumed absolute ownership in 1912.
- Was home to a U.S. Naval Station during World War II. The bunkers still remain.
- The site of the *Sea Wind* double murders of 1974, whose story was depicted in a CBS miniseries and national best-seller.



### Paradise Found

*Somewhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean just north of the Equator lies a nearly uninhabited atoll known as Palmyra. As a protected marine wildlife refuge of the U.S., the Fish and Wildlife Service has occupied the atoll since 2001 to protect the verdant land and abundant sea life. As the name implies, Palmyra Atoll is densely populated with Palm trees, providing some of the most idyllic images of a tropical paradise. Complete with white sand beaches, colorful reefs, and the ever popular rope swing, visiting this exotic ecosystem is one of the most unique opportunities afforded to KUKUI and her crew.*





# Diving —

## SPAR Anchor Recovery

It's been an eventful time for the dive team onboard KUKUI. While CGC SPAR was visiting Hawaii for drills, they fouled their anchor on a submerged post and were unable to free it. Luckily, KUKUI's and WALNUT's dive teams were able to join forces for the good of the fleet. Using 10 scuba tanks, 9 divers, and 3 lift bags, the dream team was able to float the anchor to the surface. Using the dive team to recover the anchor helped avoid the costs of procuring and shipping a new 4,000lb anchor. HOOYAH!



Joint Kukui-Walnut dive team pose with the recovered anchor.



## Hole in One

Divers are a multifaceted group – called into action for hull inspections, servicing aids to navigation, and making delicious smoothies, but sometimes the call is a little out of the ordinary. KUKUI's divers responded to an unusual incident – a runaway golf cart that found itself on the bottom of Honolulu Harbor. Swiftly, the team organized to recover the submerged golf cart, removing this hazard from the pristine harbor.

## Community Service Spotlight

Team KUKUI joined up with CGC RUSH to give back and help out Kalihi-Waena Elementary School. Crew members showed up with tillers and shovels to create a 200 meter running trail. Building the trail took about 6 hours during which the school's Vice Principal and CG Base Honolulu Commanding Officer, Captain Koerner celebrated the groundbreaking. After a hard day's work, Team KUKUI was invited into the cafeteria to eat with the school children, but not before breaking for recess to take on CGC RUSH in a little 3 on 3 basketball. Score keeping wasn't exact, but KUKUI seemed to have the upper hand before players dispersed to enjoy some well deserved chocolate milk from the cafeteria.



BM2 Parker Dawson makes tilling look easy!



# Midway



## Things to Know

The Battle of Midway is widely considered the most successful naval campaign in the history of naval warfare as US warships overwhelmingly and decisively defeated the Imperial Japanese Navy in WWII. The small island in between Japan and Hawaii is rich with military history and has served as an important naval outpost for several decades through the post-war era. Now run by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Midway serves as the home to roughly 3 million seabirds, including the rare short tailed Albatross. In fact, over two-thirds of the worlds Albatross nest in Midway.

## KUKUI's Role

There are no permanent residents on Midway, though many of its occupants have called the island home for many years. Apart from minor game fishing, these islanders are 100% reliant on cargo shipments for rations. The entrance channel for cargo vessels contains 17 buoys marking the safe channel, and these aids are the sole responsibility of KUKUI. It is imperative that these buoys receive regular maintenance, and so once a year KUKUI and her crew will head northwest to ensure the island remains accessible.

## Worth the Trip

A four day transit each direction plus at least two days of work and a couple of days rest make for about 15 days away from home; fortunately the island accommodates relaxing with one of the most beautiful beaches in the Pacific. For the more active, there is seldom a shortage of volleyball participants. Pool tables, foosball, paddleball, and shuffleboard can be found at the all hands club, and on a lucky day, you might even find yourself at the bowling alley. There is even a place for the dormant; Captain Brooks Tavern has sports on satellite and beverages on tap.



## XO's Corner

KUKUI has had many successes during this busy period. Deck force has ensured the exterior of the ship is kept free of rust (mostly!), the engineer's are always ready to respond when equipment breaks, and the Operations Department has ensured safe passage through numerous dangerous ports of call. It is an honor and privilege to serve the American people and KUKUI's crew does so with exceptional pride and dedication. A special thanks to our families and loved ones left behind during these deployments. You are as much a factor in our success as the crew aboard ship.

# Samoa

## International Engagement: The Independent State of Samoa

By: LCDR Steven Ramassini, Commanding Officer, USCGC KUKUI

On June 2, 2012 the Government of the United States of America entered into a bilateral agreement with the Government of the Independent State of Samoa concerning operational cooperation to suppress illicit transnational maritime activity. The agreement is commonly referred to as the "Shiprider Program". The Shiprider program is our nation's way of supporting the enumerate nations recognized within the expansive Pacific Ocean, also referred to as Pacific Island Countries (PIC).

The purpose of bilateral agreements with PICs is to "strengthen ongoing cooperative maritime surveillance and interdiction activities between the United States and the PICs, with the goal of identifying, combating, preventing, and interdicting illicit transnational maritime activity."

From November 5th-13th the crew of USCGC KUKUI conducted the inaugural execution of the bilateral agreement by patrolling the Samoan Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with two Samoan shipriders. The Samoan government provided one officer from their Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and another officer from the Samoan Police Force. During the patrol KUKUI's Law Enforcement teams provided training and professional development opportunities for the Samoan shipriders. KUKUI's personnel were able to learn about Samoan culture and gained a better understanding of the unicameral parliamentary government of Samoa.



*LCDR Ramassini gives the Prime Minister of Western Samoa a tour of our fair ship.*

At the conclusion of the mission, KUKUI moored in Apia, Samoa to host the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Honorable Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Neioti Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi; the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honorable Le Mamea Ropati; and American Embassy Samoa Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Chad Berbert. The picture to the right shows the Samoan Prime Minister arriving with Samoan Media in tow. Following an official greeting, the KUKUI leadership escorted the Prime Minister and his entourage to the ship's wardroom to discuss the value of the Shiprider program. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of this bilateral agreement, especially in light of the warming waters of the Pacific Ocean which he anticipates will increase the fish population within his country's EEZ. The proactive bilateral agreement will help to sustain the impending fish populations predicted to migrate to the Samoan EEZ. In addition, the relationship between America and Samoa serves to support enforcement of International Law regarding illicit activity and trafficking. For more information on the Independent State of Samoa go to: <http://www.govt.ws>.





# Around the Ship

## Sailor of the Quarter!

Congratulations to FS3 Ciara Born-Grissom for winning Sailor of the Quarter! Our very own FS3 has been very busy as Jack of the Dust, buying food for the South Trip, loading out the ship with stores only a few days before the South Trip due to Dry Stores maintenance, revising the menu with new healthy options, and filling in duty cooking for her shipmates. This award is well deserved!



FA Ramos wins a new GoPro at the morale raffle! Other winners include BOSN Smith, BM1 Korte, BM3 Puglia, and SN Rodriguez! Technically, LTJG Jaskot and ENS Miltenberger were winners in the raffle too, but they really just won each other's parking spots. Better luck next year!

## The KUKUI Internal Web Page

On an extended patrol with long transits, the days tend to blend together. If it weren't for the calendar on our computers or the date from the GPS, you might even skip past your favorite holiday without knowing. Luckily, there are some on our fair ship who strive to make the holiday season enjoyable for everyone. ET2 Mark Harbinsky has been committed to making the crew's experience on the ship's internal web page festive and memorable. Using cork figurines, wires, and office supplies, ET2 has cleverly crafted scenes depicting creepy Halloween beheadings, festive Hanukkah dreidel games, solemn Veteran's Day memorials, and of course, the Great Robotic Spider Wars. Thank you ET2 for making every visit to the KUKUI home page fun and interesting!



## Captain's Cabin

*Seems like only yesterday I arrived on island to embark upon this new adventure, now almost a year later and you've read what the crew has accomplished...pretty amazing stuff! I am proud of the hard work, dedication and professionalism displayed by all of Team KUKUI and couldn't ask for a more dedicated and capable crew. To our loved ones who manage the home front during our deployments, THANK YOU! Your sacrifice and support make our success possible.*

*To all I simply ask that you: **Continue to Prepare, Remain Adaptable and Keep Moving Forward!***